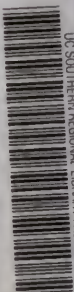


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A DAY  
AND ITS  
DREAMS

James <sup>W.</sup> Wheldon



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LOS ANGELES

"Bon Voyage"

"Bon Voyage! - God bless  
You, -

Safe return;  
These wishes go to thee  
In loving thought,  
As sails the ship,  
Across the bay,  
Across the sea.

Very Affectionately  
Wm. Englands. Rens. Drake  
September 10-12

الحمد لله رب العالمين

والصلاة والسلام على من لا نبي بعده

وبعد

فإن

الحمد لله رب العالمين

والصلاة والسلام على من لا نبي بعده

وبعد

فإن

الحمد لله رب العالمين

والصلاة والسلام على من لا نبي بعده

وبعد

فإن

A DAY AND ITS DREAMS



# A DAY AND ITS DREAMS

BY

JAMES P. WHEDON



L. C. KÜSSNER  
PUBLISHER  
CHICAGO

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*TO some one, somewhere, who has always understood and always will understand the unspoken language of the soul, who loves all the beautiful things of earth, yet delights to revel in the "land o' dreams," I dedicate myself and this little book of verse.*

*J. P. W.*

904155



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## A Day and Its Dreams

---

A dream and a day,  
A day and its dreams;  
A dream and a day,  
And all of it seems  
The birth of a soul  
In shadow of death;  
A day and its dreams,  
The whiff of a breath.

## Hope

---

Mysterious comforter of life;  
Alluring star, whose golden beams  
Lead souls of men to castles  
Fair in land of dreams.  
It makes the heart of age rejoice,  
It bids the heart of youth be brave,  
And with sweet music of expectancy,  
It charms us onward to the grave.



## Love in a Cottage

---

I live in a lowland cottage,  
On the hill is a castle fair,  
But the roses bloom in my garden  
As sweet as they do up there;  
I love my Love so dearly,  
I wonder if love up there  
Is sweet as mine in the lowland,  
With never a thought of care.

## Truth

---

Unchanging consequence of right  
Through time unchanged,  
Thou art man's deathless soul;  
Aye, God explained.

## Dream Song

---

Oh, song in a poet's dream,  
Sweet dream in a poet's song,  
Song hath its birth in dreams,  
And dreams find life in song.

## Just Because

---

Just a ripple sweet of laughter,  
Just a gentle little sigh,  
Just a winning smile so tender,  
Just a twinkle in her eye.

Why should laughter be so joyous?  
Why should sighs bring peace to  
me?

Why should smiles be golden sun-  
beams?

Why should eyes enrapture me?

Just because I love her dearly,  
Just because she loveth me,  
Just because *I love to love her*  
And she's all the world to me.

## My Boyhood Days

---

Would I could live anew  
My boyhood days,  
Their joyous ways  
'Neath sky of cloudless blue ;  
'T was easy then to be content,  
To run with feet all bare,  
And clothes all rent,  
With ne'er a thought of care,  
By stream, through wood,  
O'er meadow, field and fallow.  
Oh, would I could  
Return as doth the swallow  
In the spring,  
And sing,  
And dance with joy  
To be again a boy.

## A Voiceless Song

---

Where art thou, spirit  
Of the song I'd sing?  
Wherefore no voice within  
Thy temple walls? I bring  
Thee incense sweet of myrrh  
And rose, with birth of spring,  
Yet vain to-day is all  
My worshiping.

## Faith that Waiteth

---

Oh, star that fadeth  
    In a cloud of gloom ;  
Oh, love that kneeleth  
    At a silent tomb ;  
Oh, night that dieth  
    In the arms of day ;  
Oh, faith that waiteth  
    An adjustment day.

## Were She Other Than She Is

---

She is not fair,—that is, not fair as  
lily-bloom,  
But still so fair is she I love,  
That were she other than she is,  
Methinks the angels from yon far  
above  
Would take her from me to their hid-  
ing-place,  
And I, poor soul, in sadness sit  
alone,  
With but a memory of her winning  
grace.



## May

---

A sheaf of happy hours  
I count mine own to-day;—  
Sweet spring-time flowers  
And birds who left me  
Lone in winter drear,  
Returning, bring me cheer:—  
And so to thee, dear May,  
And bird and flow'ring tree,  
I sing a roundelay,  
This spring-tide jubilee  
Of happy hours,  
Of May-born flowers!

## June

---

A straying zephyr  
And a waveless sea;  
A skylark singing,  
And a honey-bee  
Home going happily.

A lover wooing,  
And a radiant moon,  
A maiden list'ning;  
And the world in tune  
To love: Ah, glorious June!

## Love's Song

---

The melody of birds  
At early morn,  
When in the East  
The sun is born,  
Is sweet.

But oh, the rhapsody  
Of love's sweet song;  
Its rhythmic tone  
The whole day long  
Is peace.

## Extremes

---

To one the sun looks bright,  
E'en through a cloud;  
To one all days seem night,  
The sun a shroud.

Why changeth thus life's view  
Through different eyes,  
One seeing earth a hell  
The other paradise!

## Love You!

---

Love you! aye, beyond  
Words sweetly told  
By princes, kings,  
And queens of old.

Love you! aye, beyond  
All loves of old, of new;  
I'd die for you, sweetheart,  
Yet long to live for you.

## The Old Love and the New

---

A withered flower,  
That's all;  
And yet the hour  
It lived doth call  
Again to me  
A memory!

A new-born flower  
Now all;  
Ah, will its hour  
Die too and call  
Again to me  
A memory?

## Alone!

---

What sorrow in that word!  
Ah, had it but occurred  
To me ere 't was too late,  
How I would supplicate  
Thy staying: no plea untold,  
No prayer unsaid, if I might fold  
Thee close as yesternight,  
And kiss thee now a sweet "good  
night:"—

Alone!

What sorrow in that word  
Alone!

## Would You? Would I?

---

To touch her dainty hand,  
And never even try  
To hold it close awhile;  
Would you? Would I?

To gaze into her eyes,  
And never even try  
To read love's story there;  
Would you? Would I?

To see her lips so sweet,  
And never even try  
To kiss them quick, or die;  
Would you? Would I?



## Would I Might Waken Thee!

---

Where goest thou, oh soul,  
That say'st good-by,  
And leavest me alone  
'Neath cheerless sky  
Of death-world mystery?

Where shall I seek thee,  
Soul from mine astray?  
To which star-home afar  
Shall I wend way  
In search of thee?

Oh, soul asleep; would fate  
Might loan its chart  
And compass of eternity,  
To guide me where thou art,  
That I might waken thee.

## Happiness

---

'Neath radiant skies  
Love wedded hope  
In joyous days  
    Of June.

Oh, rapture sweet  
To be hope's bride  
When rosebuds wake  
    In bloom.

## Sorrow

---

Love buried hope  
'Neath drifts of  
Snow, in drear  
December.

But oh, love's woe,  
To live alone,  
Alone, and still  
Remember.

## To the Queen of Sirens

---

Did God make thee so fair,  
More fair than others are,  
For *this*—

That I should dream one day  
On earth, and lose the way  
To heaven, for just one kiss?

## My Love, My Stars

---

The day hath golden sunshine  
For its love, the night hath stars ;  
Yet days there be when sun  
Is hid by cloud-drift bars,  
And night doth often sigh,  
Where art thou, Love, my stars,  
My Love, my stars?

## Sad Memories

---

Oh, children, children  
Of my troubled soul,  
That I have put to bed  
And lulled to sleep,  
Why will ye waken  
And creep back within  
Mine arms, and weep?

## Not worthy You

---

I gather in my mind  
Sweetest thoughts that I can find,  
My dear, for you,  
But there cometh ne'er a time  
I can twine them into rhyme  
*That's worthy you!*

## Reverie

---

Oh, dying sun, oh, southern wind  
    Ablow o'er slumbering seas;  
Oh, perfume-laden air  
    From roses loved of bees;  
Oh, evening star, this silent hour  
    Lead thou me on the way  
To gentle sleep, and dreams  
    Of love, and love's own holiday.



## A Child of Hope

---

I hold within mine arms

A child of hope, its lips so sweet

I kiss again and o'er again,

With ne'er a dream of its deceit,

With ne'er a thought that like a dream

At dawn 'twill take its flight,

Leaving the echo of a lullaby,

The memory of a star-lit night.

## Somewhere

---

It waiteth me  
Somewhere,  
Somewhere:  
Perchance it be  
In desert drear,  
On mountain height,  
'Mid `valley low.  
Afar or near,  
I do not know;  
I simply pray,  
Each night,  
Each day,  
Oh, Thou who rulest all,  
Who guidest all,  
Lead me unto the  
Soul that loveth me,  
That waiteth me,  
Somewhere,  
Somewhere.

## To "Bob"

---

Just a common dog are you ;  
They call you brute, they do ;  
But I tell you men are few  
Who are kind to me as you.

As I look into your face,  
I seem to catch a trace  
Of a higher life-born race  
Which somehow fell from grace.

But I love you ; yes, I do ;  
You 're a friend that 's ever true ;  
And I tell you men are few  
Who are kind to me as you.

## Were It Not Better?

---

If on the morrow our good-by  
In sadness should be bound,  
Were it not better this fair day  
For us had ne'er been found?

If on the morrow tears should fall  
Love sorrowing at life's feet,  
Were it not better at this hour  
To cry — *Oh, love, retreat?*

## God's Temple

---

Within the realm of Mind  
God builds his temple fair,  
And those who enter in  
Find peace and solace there.

Truth at its portal stands,  
Good is the altar there,  
Harmony the only song,  
Love the eternal prayer.

## Fulp

---

Clear twilight skies,  
Far clouds afloat,  
And many a note  
From song-bird's throat;  
While'st moon, alight  
With glint of gold,  
Lists tales of love  
Retold, retold.

## Devotion

---

To thee, above, beyond  
All other souls

I dedicate my heart,  
And there's no part  
Of Life's existence

Fate hath willed to me  
That I in selfishness  
Would keep from thee.

## To a Picture

---

Bright eyes that meet mine own,  
Yet see me not;  
Oh, silent lips whose words  
I've ne'er forgot;  
Fair dainty hands of white  
I would were mine;  
Oh, pictured dream to me  
Almost divine.



## A Thought Untold

---

Oh, thought that dieth  
Ere it groweth old,  
Oh, dreamer's dream,  
Oh, thought untold,  
Thou'lt live again in  
Generations new;  
Then men will kneel  
To worship you.

## Entreaty

---

Soul of my love's own soul,  
Hope of a day unseen,  
Thou art of my life's self  
A Queen, my Queen.

Soul of thine own love's soul,  
Dream of awak'ning spring,  
Let me of thine own self  
Be King, thy King.

## Content

---

Content, thou mother of all  
Happy hours, praise be to thee!  
Queen spirit of life's best estate,  
Oh, comfort me.

Content, thou mother of all  
Good to men, praise be to thee!  
Earth hath no restful place,  
Except with thee.

## Love's Deepest Depths

---

Love's little likings thrill  
One as a honey-bee  
Sweet whisp'ring to a rose,  
"I love but thee;"  
Whilst yearning souls alive  
With love intensified,  
In silence wait and sigh;  
Oh, God, why must we die  
Unsatisfied!

## Discontent

---

Years have been mine to know  
Life's way; its crossings show  
Men's footsteps on the trail  
Of time, and yet I fail  
To find one place where I  
Can say, 'tis here I dare  
To wait and pitch my tent:—  
Oh, night of discontent,  
Would I might see one star  
Anear and never know, 'tis far!

## Storm to Calm

---

Wild winds of western wilds  
A-war 'neath cloud-rib'd skies  
Of yestere'en,  
How calm thy sullen sound  
At dawn, as eastward dies  
The hours between.

## The King's Lament

---

No day was dark, and night  
Did daytime seem

When thou wert here :

Now all my soul is drear,  
For thou art gone, my Queen,  
And day is night, and night  
Is one long year.

## Life

---

### MORNING

A listless sea!  
And children on its shore  
At play with shells and sand  
Hear song of waves.

### NOON

A restless sea!  
And men upon its shore  
In tears see ships out-stand  
O'er mad'ning waves.

### NIGHT

A surging sea!  
And sea-gulls near its shore  
View wrecks strewn 'long the land,  
And new-made graves.



## When Dreams Come True

---

From memory-land there comes to-  
day

A love-born thought that went astray  
In ages gone, when you and I  
Were lovers 'neath another sky,  
In other spheres, where dreams came  
true,

And every hour was heaven with you.

But oh, sweetheart, again thou'rt near,  
Far flown is every whisp'ring fear,  
Joy ends time's war of sorrowing  
strife.

I hear anew love's song of life,  
Again in rapture, dreams come true,  
*For heaven once more is mine, with you.*

## Sleep

---

In silence buildest thou a tomb for  
care  
Which burd'neth me on every hand ;  
Life's gentle nurse art thou, yet lur-  
ing me  
So near to death, I fail to understand !

## A Dream

---

Thou dost untwine the tangled skein  
Of thoughts my mind enfolds,  
A lullaby sleep singeth me,  
And paradise my soul beholds.

## The Death of a Rose

---

On a maiden's breast  
A rose-bud lies ;  
Its eyes meet hers ;  
In tears it sighs ;  
Oh, cruel death,  
That thou shouldst come  
The very hour  
Her heart I won.

## Unanswered

---

No word across the wide expanse of  
space

Comes to my heart asleep in loneliness;

The day is weary of time's ling'ring  
pace,

My soul is lost in strange forget-  
fulness.

## Sorrow Untold

---

Wee fairy lily-bell,  
Cradle for bees,  
O'er-rocking a grave  
'Neath moss-covered trees ;  
Little thou knowest  
The sorrow untold  
My heart doth contain  
As thy life I behold.

## When Thou Art Near

---

Weird, haunting spirits of unrest  
Steal serpent-like into my breast  
When thou'rt not near.

Calm is my soul as summer sea,  
Life's one sweet song of harmony,  
When thou art near.

## Unrest

---

Oh, gladsome yesterday, so kind to  
me,  
E'en yet I see  
The smile upon thy face;  
Ah, if I could retrace  
The steps which led me far away  
Within life's wilderness astray,  
I'd fly to thee.

Oh, wearisome to-day, unkind to me,  
I'd sentence thee  
To lasting banishment,  
E'en death as punishment  
For all thy treachery,  
If I might thus be free  
And rid of thee.



Oh, morrow, wake; come speedily;  
Oh, come to me!  
As doth a convict wait  
Behind a prison gate,  
Wait I impatiently  
Life's grander liberty  
With thee, with thee.

**“Will-o’-the-Wisp”**

---

A little maiden’s  
Eyes so bright,  
Unto my heart  
Brought new delight.

A little maiden’s  
Charming ways,  
Led hope a chase  
For many days.

The little maiden  
Ran away,  
But hope pursues her  
Every day.

## To a Rose

---

Rose, red rose, new born  
Of life's rich red'ning blood,  
Why liv'st thou not a day  
Beyond the flowing flood  
Of this fair day in which  
Thou art supreme?

Rose, red rose, new born  
Of life's sweet morning dew,  
Live thou love's morrow-day  
With me, then through  
An endless sleep  
With thee I'll dream.

## New Year Greeting

---

May God's rich gift—content —  
Abide with you,  
Each hour of every day,  
The whole year through.

## “Bon Voyage”

---

“Bon Voyage,”—God bless you,—  
Safe return;  
These wishes go to thee  
In loving thought, as sails the ship,  
Across the bay, across the sea.

## Love's Mystery

---

Bright is the day and fair,  
And sweet life's roundelay,  
Hope is one blissful dream,  
For Love is Queen to-day,  
    Is Queen to-day.  
Oh, drear the day and cold,  
Whilst Love of yesterday  
Lies dead within my heart  
And Hope hath fled away,—  
    Hath fled away.

## Duo

---

Two voices blend in melody a song  
So sweet heaven seemeth near;  
One singer's eyes are filled with smiles  
Whilst in the other's dwells a tear.

Thus in life's wondrous song  
(That endless caroling of years),  
Who knows when smiles are sorrow-  
born,  
Who knows when joy finds birth in  
tears?

## Love's Way

---

To live one's day,  
And find the hours  
In which to cull  
Love's sweetest flowers,  
Is life.

To live one's day,  
And never find  
One flower, or know  
Love's heart is kind,  
Is death.



## To a Bride

---

May happy hours  
And sweetest flowers  
Be strewn along  
Life's way for thee,  
Unceasingly.

And may the light  
Of love burn bright,  
As God's own stars,  
Which shine for thee,  
Unchangingly.

## Too Soon!

---

The song of a bird  
At eve to its mate;  
The kisses of youth  
At the wicker gate;  
The life of a rose,  
A lullaby tune;  
Ah, the end of it all  
Cometh too soon.

## Only a Rose

---

Only a rose upon whose  
    Bosom gently lies  
The mirror'd loveliness  
    Of thine enchanting eyes.

Only a rose, yet dies  
    In blissful ecstasy,  
Singing love's sweetest song,  
    Dear heart, to you, to me.

## World of fate

---

Oh, world of fate  
    Within a fateful world;  
Day crowns a king,  
    Yet night hath hurled  
His throne of hope  
    In fragments down,  
Ere day anew  
    Another king doth crown!

## Enchantment

---

Through silent paths of night  
Thy spirit comes to me,  
Luring my soul to sleep  
In dreams of ecstasy,  
Dreams of enchanted days,  
When love and harmony,  
Shall hold us in their arms  
Throughout eternity!

## To Inspiration

---

I've sought thee everywhere,  
In cranny nooks,  
By winding brooks,  
Through stormy days and fair;  
'Mid snow, 'mid flowers,  
For countless hours  
I've searched in vain for thee.  
Oh, dream-born sprite,  
Thou elfin mite,  
I pray thee, *Come to me!*

## Winter Winds

---

Oh, winter winds,  
Thou'rt kindlier than I thought,  
When summer sun and flower  
Oft to mine eyelids brought  
A tear in dread of thee.

Oh, winter winds  
And snow, thy chilling cold  
E'en cheers my soul as in  
A dream mine eyes behold  
A summer sky and sea.

## Why ?

---

Rose o' the budding time,  
Rose in the bloom,  
Rose o' the fading time,  
Why die so soon ?

Love o' the loving hours,  
Love in its prime,  
Tears and a broken heart,  
Why art thou mine ?



## Love's Perfect Way

---

Love's perfect way is made  
Of hallow'd things,—  
From tender kindliness,  
And joy that sings  
Responsive songs in hearts  
Attune to love,  
Whilst life learns Love's intent,  
From God above!

## My Dearie Dear

---

My dearie dear, to thee  
The birds are singing sweet;  
Would I their songs could sing  
Thine ears to greet.

My dearie dear, for thee  
The sweetest roses grow;  
Would I a rose might be  
To love thee so.

My dearie dear, for thee  
Love hath its castle fair;  
Would I and song and rose  
With thee were there!

## Supplication

---

I do implore thee, give me *now* the  
flowers

Which some day thou wouldst lay  
upon my breast.

Oh, give them now whilst I am here  
with thee,

*Not* when in death my weary hands  
find rest.

I pray thee give me *now* thy faith  
and trust.

My longing soul craves words of  
praise from thee,

And if thou hast but one sweet word  
of love

To give, I beg thee, give it *now* to  
me!

## Violets

---

Sweetheart, from meadow-land,  
Kissed by the dew,  
These little violets  
Came forth for you,  
Breathing sweet fragrance,  
Gently to say,  
My heart is thine, love,  
Now and alway.

## A Birthday Greeting

---

May ever the days be gladsome  
Always the skies be blue,  
Love be a faithful companion,  
Friends be many and true,  
Flowers in abundance thy portion,  
Never the briars nor rue,  
Harvests of peace and contentment,  
These are my wishes for you.

## Indifference

---

To see a ship sail out,  
And shed no tear  
As waves run high  
And seamen fear.

To see a ship astrand,  
And never sigh  
As waves roll in  
And seamen die.

## Time's Trio

---

Yesterday: to-day:  
To-morrow!  
Trio of Time's way.  
If sorrow  
Came with yesterday,  
Then borrow  
None for present day;  
Let morrow  
Slay in its own way  
All sorrow!

## Remember?

---

Aye, each happy hour  
Of all the days,  
Love led us through  
Its charmed ways,  
Whilst you to me,  
And I to you,  
Were all the world;  
And well I knew  
Heav'n must be near,  
For in your eyes  
My soul didst find  
A paradise.



## You!

---

Others come and onward go,  
Like fleeting clouds 'neath skies  
of blue,

But ne'er a one appeals to me,  
For ne'er a one is just like you.

I mingle with life's rushing throng,  
In vain endeavor to forget,  
But all the while I yearn for you,  
The "*you*" I love and can't forget.

'Tis you my longing soul doth crave,  
For you impatiently I wait,  
Just you,—my own, come, come to  
me,  
For I am lonely, desolate.

## Sweethearts!

---

A Lily of white  
And a Rose of red  
Grew in the yard  
Of the old homestead;  
I list'ned the Rose  
As he sang his song  
To the Lily fair  
The whole day long—  
Sweetheart, sweetheart,  
Love me true,  
My heart's love  
Is all for you.

The bees kissed the Lily  
Softly sweet,  
The butterflies danced  
Around her feet;

But her heart she gave  
To the Rose of red,  
As she kissed his lips  
And whisp'ring said:  
Sweetheart, dearest,  
I love thee,  
Dearest, sweetheart,  
Only thee.

## Summerland

---

Sweet Summerland,  
Bright sunshine-land,  
Where fairies play  
The livelong day,  
I wish for thee.  
Gay Summerland  
I wish for thee.

## Winterland

---

Oh, Winterland,  
Drear Winterland,  
Of Snowdrifts white  
And Wind, and Night,  
I wish not thee  
Cold Winterland,  
I wish not thee.

### Processional

In bright sun-border'd days  
Of love's believing,  
O'er hope's far-reaching plain  
Runs youth.

### Recessional

Through night-crowned yesterdays  
Of love's deceiving,  
What star to age brings light  
Of truth?

## Mother

---

No voice so sacred to my ear,  
No love to me is half so dear  
As Mother's.

No other friend could be  
A friend in great adversity—  
Like mother.

In sorrow's hour, deserted, love,  
She gently says, My child, come home  
To Mother.

No chiding for my erring ways,  
Only a tear, as for me prays,  
My Mother

Oh, hands of mine, with gladness lay  
The flowers of peace along life's way  
For Mother.

1896.

## **“Good-bye”**

---

Love's plaintive sigh,  
Good-bye,  
A chant of fears,  
A flood of tears,  
The scourge of years,  
Love's plaintive sigh,  
Good-bye,  
Good-bye.



PRINTED BY R. R. DONNELLEY  
AND SONS COMPANY AT THE  
LAKESIDE PRESS, CHICAGO, ILL.

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